Pressure for Curtailment of I.P.R. Transition Period

1832. SHRI JAGMOHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) how many countries have to far ratified the Uruguay Round Pact on GATT.

(b) whether some G 7 Group countries are pressurising, before ratification for curtailment of transition period for Intellectual Property Rights; and

(c) whether Government is mobilising the support of the Developing countries to resist such pressures?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Twenty countries had indicated their definitive acceptance of the Uruguay Round results at the Marrakesh Ministerial Conference. Thereafter, five others hae announced that their domestic ratification procedures have been completed.

(b) and (c) The G—7 has not taken up multilaterally the issue of the curtailment of the transition period under TRIPS. Hence, the question of mobilising support of developing countries does not arise. Bilaterally, however, the U.S.A. has raised this issue with India.

Payment of CCS to Public Sector Companies

1833. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Director General of Foreign Trade has not issued orders for payment of CCS to various public sector exporting companies whose claims arose prior to 2nd July, 1991;

(b) whether in some cases auditors had raised objections;

(c) whether these objections have not yet been clarified; and

(d) if so, the acts and reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Govt. have issued clear instructions that CCS is to be paid by the Regional Licensing Offices to all entitled categories of exporters, on exports made upto 2.7.1991.

(b) to (d) Only in one case of a public sector undertaking objections have been raised by Audit authorities, regarding restricting the CCS payable by applying cut-off point of 25 percent of value added or using imported raw materials and components. The Audit Authorities have already been requested to drop audit objection, on the basis of clarification provided to them.

Licence to Private Mine Owners to Export Iron Ore

1834. SHRI GAYA SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have allowed private mine owners other than MMTC to export Iron Ores from Goa and Karnataka;

(b) if so, whether the same facilities have been proposed for Orissa and Bihar; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Export of iron ore, except iron ore of Goa and Redi Origin and concentrates/pellets produced by Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited (KIOCL), is canalised through MMTC. Iron ore of Goan origin is allowed for export directly to Japan, Taiwan, South Korea, China and Europe and iron ore of Redi Origin is KIOCL is allowed to export its products, viz., iron ore concentrates and pellets, directly to all markets.

(b) No such decision has been taken so far.